

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5717

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 4393

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, PINT

SUBJ: RELATIONS WITH NEW CHILEAN GOVERNMENT

REF: SANTIAGO 4372

1. ORLANDO SAENZ CAME BY MY OFFICE A FEW MINUTES AGO WITH A MESSAGE FROM FONMIN HUERTA. HUERTA HAS TALKED WITH MERINO, WHO EXPLAINED THAT GOC NERVOUSNESS ABOUT OUR DELAY IN ESTABLISHING FULL RELATIONS IS RELATED TO SUSPECTED SOVIET NAVAL MOVEMENTS CONNECTED WITH CHILE. ACCORDING TO SAENZ, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF SOME SORT OF SOVIET NAVAL MOVEMENTS FROM OR AROUND HAWAII WHICH HAVE GIVEN CHILEAN AUTHORITIES CONCERN. THERE ALSO APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SOME SUSPICIOUS SHIP MOVEMENTS OFF CHILEAN COASTS. SAENZ IS NOT SURE, BUT HE THINKS SOME DOCUMENTS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN FOUND SUPPORTING A SUSPICION THAT SOVIET AND UP REPRESENTATIVES HAD A PLAN FOR MENACING SOVIET NAVAL MOVEMENTS IF A COUP WERE TO TAKE PLACE. THE CHILEANS WOULD BE MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE, IF THE SOVIETS WERE TO MAKE ANY GESTURE; IF THEIR RELATIONS WITH US WERE FIRM AND CLEAR. HAVING SAID THIS, MERINO AND HUERTO ADDED (AS REPORTED BY SAENZ) THAT CHILEANS WOULD OF COURSE RESPECT WHATEVER DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS MADE A SLIGHT DELAY NECESSARY ON OUR PART.

2. SAENZ SAID HE BELIEVED MERINO WAS TRYING TO PUT IN A DIRECT CALL TO ZUMWALT. I SUGGESTED THAT ADMIRAL MERINO OR ADMIRAL HUERTA DESIGNATE AN AUTHORIZED CHILEAN NAVAL OFFICER TO GET TOGETHER WITH ORU NAVAL ATTACHE IN ORDER TO GIVE US SUCH SPECIFIC
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INFORMATION AS CHILEANS MAY HAVE ABOUT SHIP MOVEMENTS. (AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, WE HAVE ALREADY HAD REPORTS THROUGH INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE HAWAII REPORT, AND ALSO THE "SIGNS" OF SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS OFF THE CHILEAN COAST.)

3. IN ADDITION TO COUNTRIES PREVIOUSLY NAMED (SANTIAGO 4372 AND 4304), FOLLOWING HAVE REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT RELATIONS CONTINUE: BY NOTE, PORTUGAL AND EL SALVADOR (CONFIRMATION); BY PRESS ACCOUNTS, DANISH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY ARE "MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH CHILE. IN ADDITION, CHILEAN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL EXPECTS ARGENTINE RECOGNITION THIS AFTERNOON.
DAVIS

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